

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ROME 11808 01 OF 03 261640Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----045872 261643Z /41
O 261600Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3810

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 3 ROME 11808

NODIS

SUMMARY. DURING COURSE OF EIGHT HOURS OF CONVERSATION, JUNE 22-25, ANGOLAN PRIME MINISTER NASCIMENTO, AND MPLA CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER LUVUVALU AND U.S. REPS MCHENRY AND JUNIOR EXPLORED FULL RANGE OF QUESTIONS OF MUTUAL INTEREST BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS; NAMIBIA/ANGOLAN OUTLOOK; OBJECTIVES AND PHILOSOPHY; ANGOLAN/ZAIRIAN RELATIONS, ANGOLAN INTERNAL RECONCILIATION; CUBAN PRESENCE; AND OUTLOOK FOR NORMALIZATION USG/GOA RELATIONS. ATMOSPHERE WAS CORDIAL, FRANK EXCHANGE THE KEY NOTE. FULLER APPRECIATION OF VIEWPOINTS, BUT NO QTE BREAKTHROUGHS UNQTE ACHIEVED. BELIEVE BASIS ESTABLISHED FOR ONGOING FRUITFUL EXCHANGES WHICH COULD LEAD TO SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS. END SUMMARY.

BACKGROUND

1. AT INVITATION GOA PRESIDENT NETO, MCHENRY AND JUNIOR BEGAN BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS ON MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST AT MPLA PARTY HEADQUARTERS ON JUNE 22. TALKS CONTINUED THROUGH JUNE 25 IN SERIES OF TWO HOUR SESSIONS. NASCIMENTO LED ANGOLAN SIDE (IN ABSENCE OF NETO IN GUINEA/BISSAU) AND WAS ACCOMPANIED THROUGHOUT (EXCEPT FINAL SESSION JUNE 25) BY PASCUAL LUVUVALU, MEMBER OF MPLA CENTRAL COMMITTEE, ALTERNATE MEMBER OF POLITICAL BUREAU, CHARGED WITH FOREIGN AFFAIRS BY

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 ROME 11808 01 OF 03 261640Z

THE PARTY.

2. NASCIMENTO WAS CLEARLY IN LEAD WITH ONLY OCCASIONAL COMMENTS FROM LUVUVALU. ATMOSPHERE WAS RELAXED AND BOTH SIDES HAD FULL OPPORTUNITY TO EXPOSE THEIR POINTS OF VIEW.

3. FOR BREVITY, FOLLOWING REPORT FOCUSES PRIMARILY ON ANGOLAN EXPOSITION, WITH REFERENCE ONLY TO POINTS OF PRIMARY INTEREST MADE BY U.S. SEPARATE TELEGRAMS UNDER PREPARATION WILL REPORT ON RELATED SUBJECTS.

ANGOLAN POLICY PRINCIPLES

4. NASCIMENTO SAID HE WISHED TO LEAD HIS REMARKS ON SPECIFIC ISSUES BY SKETCHING THE PRINCIPLES WHICH DRIVE ANGOLAN POLICY. HE WOULD ARRANGE FOR HIS VISITORS TO TOUR LUANDA TO SEE THE HARSH REALITIES WHICH HIS GOVERNMENT FACES: THE FUNDAMENTAL NEED FOR FOOD, HOUSING, CLOTHING AND MEDICAL CARE FOR THE ANGOLAN PEOPLE. IT WAS THOSE REALITIES WHICH SHAPE ANGOLAN POLICY. YEARS OF STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE HAD CREATED IN ANGOLA A VISION OF WHAT INDEPENDENCE MEANS. THE ANGOLANS LOOK TO THE GOVERNMENT TO FULFILL ITS PROMISES. THE ANGOLANS HAVE OPTED FOR SOCIALISM. USUALLY THE SOCIALIST EXPERIENCE IN AFRICA HAS BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH GOVERNMENTS WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN SOLVING THEIR ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. BUT THE ANGOLANS WERE DETERMINED THAT THEIR SOCIALISM WOULD BE ONE OF WELFARE, NOT OF MISERY.

5. HOWEVER, AT INDEPENDENCE, THE PORTUGUESE HAD "REMOVED" MORE THAN 30,000 KEY TECHNICIANS, THE CADRE
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 ROME 11808 01 OF 03 261640Z

VITAL TO RUNNING WHAT WAS THEN THE "MOST ADVANCED INFRASTRUCTURE" IN SUB-SAHARANN AFRICA. IT WAS NOW UP TO THE ANGOLANS TO MAKE GOOD THAT LOSS, TO MAKE THIS INFRASTRUCTURE RUN. WE ARE THEREFORE DETERMINED TO SUBSTITUTE THOSE 30,000 TO SOLVE OUR COMPLEX, INTERNAL PROBLEMS. NOTING WITH APPRECIATION THE ASSISTANCE OF 10,000 CUBAN TECHNICIANS, NASCIMENTO NEVERTHELESS NOTED, "WE RPT WE MUST RESOLVE THEM, NOT OUR FRIENDS."

6. COMMENT: THIS THEME WAS THE CORE OF THE ANGOLAN PRESENTATION, AND COLORED THE ANGOLAN VIEW ON EVERY ISSUE: THE NEED FOR PEACE, FOR SECURITY, FOR FREEDOM FROM MULTIPLE EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL THREATS IN ORDER TO DEVOTE ANGOLAN RESOURCES TO RESOLUTION OF THE MASSIVE DEVELOPMENTAL AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS OF THE ANGOLAN SOCIETY.

SECRET

NNN

SECRET

PAGE 01 ROME 11808 02 OF 03 261706Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----046072 261710Z /46
O 261600Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3811

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 3 ROME 11808

NODIS

NAMIBIA

7. TWO OUTSTANDING POINTS OF CONTENTION, WALVIS BAY AND LOCATION OF RESIDUAL SAG TROOPS, WERE THOROUGHLY EXPLORED. ON WALVIS BAY, NASCIMENTO SAID THAT, WHILE ISSUE IS ONE TO BE SETTLED SUBSEQUENTLY, IT IS FUNDAMENTAL THAT INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND SECURITY COUNCIL BE FIRM, AND AFFIRM THAT AREA IS INTEGRAL PART OF NAMIBIA. THERE MUST BE SURETY THAT SAG AND AN INDEPENDENT NAMIBIA WILL ENTER INTO NEGOTITIONS. A "BETTER IDEA," SAID NASCIMENTO, WOULD BE TO DEFINE AND STIPULATE A TIME-FRAME FOR HANDOVER OF WALVIS BAY TO NAMIBIA.

8. AFTER EXAMINATION OF PSYCHOLOGICAL/POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF WHERE SA TROOPS SHOULD BE LOCATED, AND OF POSSIBLE WAYS TO ASSURE THE INTERESTS OF BOTH SAG AND SWAPO, NASCIMENTO AND MCHENRY AGREED SUBJECT SHOULD BE PURSUED DIRECTLY WITH SWAPO FOLLOWING CURRENT TALKS IN PRETORIA.

9. COMMENT: NASCIMENTO MADE NO COMMITMENTS BUT SAID, "WE MUST WORK FAST AND TOGETHER" ON NAMIBIA. HE ADDED THAT SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES ARE MASSING ON THE SOUTHERN BORDER WITH UNITA AND THAT SAG WISHES TO PRESS THE COURSE OF EVENTS IN NAMIBIA SO AS TO PRESENT THE

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 ROME 11808 02 OF 03 261706Z

UN WITH A "FAIT ACCOMPLI." WE HAVE IMPRESSION
GOA WILL USE ITS INFLUENCE FAVORABLY WITH SWAPO.

ANGOLA/ZAIRE

10. NASCIMENTO SAID HE WANTED TO AFFIRM WHAT HE HAD TOLD SECRETARY VANCE IN NEW YORK. "THE ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT HAD HAD NO DIRECT NOR INDIRECT INVOLVEMENT" IN THE SHABA AFFAIR. "THE SAME WE CAN SAY FOR THE SOVIETS AND CUBANS."

11. NASCIMENTO, IN SUMMARY, WENT ON TO ATTACH THE MOBUTU GOVERNMENT, ONE WHICH CREATED MANIFOLD PROBLEMS FOR THE ANGOLANS. IN ITS CORRUPTION AND MISMANAGEMENT IT HAD CREATED TRIBAL PROBLEMS (PARTICULARLY AMONG THE LUNDA) WHICH IMPACT HEAVILY ON ANGOLA.

12. RATHER THAN STRIFE AND UNREST IN SHABA, ANGOLA WANTED TO SEE A VIABLE ECONOMY, ONE WHICH CREATED NO ESSENTIALLY TRIBAL PROBLEMS BUT ONE WHICH WOULD ENSURE THAT THE ECONOMY AND THE INFRASTRUCTURE WORKED. SPECIFICALLY, ANGOLA HAD A HEAVY BURDEN IN ASSISTING THE ROUGHLY 200,000 ZAIRIAN REFUGEES. MOREOVER, THE BENGUELA RAILROAD HAD BEEN CONSTRUCTED TO SERVICE THREE ECONOMIES: ZAMBIAN, ZAIRIAN AND ANGOLAN. NOW THE RAILROAD WAS RUNNING, BUT SERVING ANGOLA ONLY AND ON AN UNECONOMIC BASIS. "WE NEED THE FOREIGN EXCHANGE" A FULLY FUNCTIONING RAILROAD WOULD PROVIDE. "GOODS, BE THEY CAPITALIST, SOCIALIST OR COMMUNIST, ARE BOUGHT WITH DOLLARS."

13. RECOGNIZING THE DANGERS IN THE PROBLEM WITH ZAIRE, NOT WANTING TO BE ACCUSED OF INTERFERING IN
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 ROME 11808 02 OF 03 261706Z

ZAIRIAN AFFAIRS, THE GOA HAS DECIDED TO MOVE ALL ZAIRIAN REFUGEES AWAY FROM THE BORDER AREA, TO THE INTERIOR OF ANGOLA. ALL ARMED KATANGESE ENTERING ANGOLA WILL BE DISARMED AND INCLUDED AMONG THOSE MOVED.

14. NASCIMENTO SAID ANGOLA IS NOW AWAITING A RECIPROCAL MOVE FROM ZAIRE. ANGOLA IS FULLY AWARE OF THE SUPPORT ZAIRE GIVES ANGOLAN COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARIES, AND HAS SUFFERED MUCH FROM THEIR INCURSIONS. DISMANTLING THEIR BASES IN ZAIRE (ANGOLA HAS GIVEN ZAIRE A SPECIFIC LIST OF THEM) AND MOVING THE DISSIDENTS AWAY FROM THE BORDER WOULD BE "PROOF THAT ZAIRE IS WILLING TO MAINTAIN THE KIND OF RELATIONSHIP WE WANT AND WOULD CREATE THE BASIS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS OF OUR PROBLEMS."

15. COMMENT: THROUGHOUT THE TALKS, NASCIMENTO MADE CLEAR A TOTAL ANGOLAN DISENCHANTMENT WITH MOBUTU. "HE HAS NEVER KEPT ANY AGREEMENTHE MADE WITH US." HE DENIES ALL ALLEGATIONS OF SUPPORT FOR ANGOLAN DIS-

SIDENTS. "HE GAVE KAUNDA ASSURANCES (REGARDING A ZAMBIAN, ZAIRIAN, ANGOLAN MEETING TO RESOLVE DIFFERENCES) AND REPUDIATED THEM PUBLICLY THREE DAYS LATER." NASCIMENTO MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE IS NOT WILLING TO TALK WITH MOBUTU WITHOUT PRIOR ZAIRIAN ACTION VIS-A-VIS ANGOLAN DISSIDENTS IN ZAIRE. WHEN QUESTIONED RE POSSIBLE AFRICAN INTER-LOCUTORS, HE DISMISSED THE NIGERIANS AND ENDORSED THE CONGOLESE.

INTERNAL SETTLEMENT

16. "FLNA AND UNITA ARE ENTITIES OF THE PAST." THEY ARE NO LONGER A MILITARY PROBLEM, BUT A POLITICAL ONE. THEIR POPULATONS HAVE REJECTED THEM, AND WITHOUT EXTERNAL SUPPORT, HEY ARE LOST. THE PROBLEM IS,
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 ROME 11808 02 OF 03 261706Z

THEREFORE, NOT "RECONCILIATION" BUT ONE OF "REINTEGRATION." "WE MUS DEVELOP A POLITICAL PROGRAM THAT WILL MAKE THEM UNDERSTAND OUR SYSTEM, THEN THEY WILL JOINUS VOLUNTARILY." THIS IS AN INTERNAL PROBLEM, ONE FOR US TO SOLVE WITHOUT OUTSIDE INTERFERENCES.

SECRET

NNN

SECRET

PAGE 01 ROME 11808 03 OF 03 261715Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----046135 261717Z /41

O 261600Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3812

S E C R E T SECTION 3 OF 3 ROME 11808

NODIS

CUBANS AND SECURITY

17. "IT IS NO BARGAIN, FOR US OR FOR THE CUBANS, TO

MAINTAIN LARGE NUMBERS OF CUBANS HERE." BUT THEY ARE HERE TO SECURE OUR TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY. OUR PREFERRED SOLUTION IS POLITICAL, TO REMOVE THE THREATS FROM OUR BORDERS. WE COULD IMPROVE OUR DEFENSE BY MORE SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS, SUCH AS MISSILES, BUT ALL DEFENSE IS EXPENSIVE. "EACH BULLET COSTS US ONE KILO OF COFFEE EXPORT OR A BARREL OF OIL." NEVERTHELESS, "WE COULD NOT ACCEPT CONDITIONS WHICH WOULD REMOVE THE CUBANS FROM HERE IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH YOU."

18. NASCIMENTO WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE SOMETIMES IS PUZZLED BY US POLICY. "WERE I IN THE PRESIDENT'S CHAIR IN WASHINGTON, I WOULD THINK THAT THE BEST WAY TO ACHIEVE A REMOVAL OF THE CUBANS WOULD BE TO ESTABLISH ANGOLAN SECURITY, NOT TO MAKE ANGOLA LESS SECURE. THE BEST WAY TO ASSURE THAT A COUNTRY REMAINS NON-ALIGNED IS NOT TO ATTACK IT, SINCE THAT INDUCES A DEFENSIVE REACTION."

19. IN ANY EVENT, PER NASCIMENTO, "THE CUBANS ARE HERE AND WILL REMAIN HERE." THERE IS NO OTHER WAY
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 ROME 11808 03 OF 03 261715Z

TO MAINTAIN OUR INDEPENDENCE, AS COSTLY AS THE BURDEN MAY BE."

US-ANGOLAN RELATIONS

20. CLEARLY STATED AT THE BEGINNING, AND RECURRENT THROUGHOUT THE TALKS, WAS THE CONCEPT THAT BOTH SIDES WERE INTERESTED IN IMPROVING RELATINS, IF POSSIBLE WITH THE VIEW, OVER TIME, OF REESTABLISHING DIPLOMATIC TIES. BOTH AGREED THIS EXTENSIVE EXCHANGE HAD BEEN INFORMATIVE AND USEFUL, AND THAT WHILE THERE REMAIN AREAS OF SUBSTANTIAL DIFFERENCES, WE SEEM TO BE SEEKING THE SAME GOALS, IF DEFINED AS PEACE AND STABILITY IN SOUTH/CENTRAL AFRICA.

21. OUR PRIMARY MESSAGE TO THE ANGOLANS, PER THE DELEGATIONS GUIDANCE, WAS THAT OUR AIMS ACCORD WITH THE ANGOLAN DESIRE FOR STABILITY AND SECURITY; REMOVAL OF SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES FROM NAMIBIA THROUGH INDEPENDENCE; RESOLUTION OF ZAIRIAN/ANGOLAN BORDER QUESTIONS VIA A PROCESS OF NEGOTIATION AND ACCOMMODATION, AND AN INTERNALLY NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT INSIDE ANGOLA. THESE OBJECTIVES, WHEN ACHIEVED, WOULD REDUCE OR ELIMINAATE THE NEED FOR LARGE NUMBERS OF CUBAN FORCES IN ANGOLA, A PRESENCE WHICH NOT ONLY GIVES THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT MUCH CONCERN BUT ALSO ONE WHICH GIVES RISE TO CONTINUING QUESTIONS AS

TO THE REPRESENTATIVE NATURE OF THE LUANDA GOVERNMENT.

22. DURING COURSE OF DISCUSSIONS, DELEGATION FOUND IT NECESSARY TO EMPHASIZE (BEYOND GENERAL ARGUMENTATION PERTAINING TO ALL SUBJECTS COVERED) THAT:

(A) THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IS PROVIDING NO ASSISTANCE,
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 ROME 11808 03 OF 03 261715Z

DIRECT OR INDIRECT, TO ANGOLAN DISSIDENT GROUPS, INCLUDING UNITA, AND THAT WE ARE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE POINT OF SUCH AID WITH OTHERS;

(B) WE HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT US MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO ZAIRE IS BEING USED IMPROPERLY OUTSIDE ITS BORDERS;

(C) THE US (AND OTHERS) HAVE MADE IT CLEAR TO THE GOZ THAT FURTHER SUBSTANTIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO ZAIRE WILL HINGE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF COMPREHENSIVE REFORMS, INCLUDING, HOPEFULLY, THOSE WHICH WILL TEND TO REDUCE THE LEVEL OF TENSION BETWEEN ANGOLA AND ZAIRE.

23. FULL MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION PREPARED. SUBSIDIARY REPORTS ARE NOW UNDER PREPARATION. THEY INCLUDE OUR ANALYSIS AND COMMENTS ON THE MAIN THEMES OF THESE CONVERSATIONS, DELEGATIONS' VISITS TO TWO IMPRISONED AMERICAN MERCENARIES, OUTLOOK OF WESTERN DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY AND OTHERS. GARDNER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, MEETING REPORTS, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, POLITICAL SITUATION, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ROME11808
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DC IS X2 PER KELLY
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P840139-2494
Format: TEL
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780620/aaaaarbb.tel
Line Count: 364
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1213ee7f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 7
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2209094
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NAMIBIA/ANGOLAN OUTLOOK
TAGS: PEPR, PGOV, IT, AO, US, (NASCIMENTO, LOPO FORTUNATO FERREIRA), (MCHENRY, DONALD), (LUVUVALU)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1213ee7f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014